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Man Sentenced to 15-years in one Sexual Assault Case and a Travis County Jury Finds Another Man Guilty of Aggravated Sexual Assault

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019, Jorge Ramon-Amaya entered a guilty plea to Sexual Assault and was sentenced to 15-years imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The case arose out of an attack that occurred in the early morning hours of February 3, 2018 in the Rainey Street bar district. The victim had gone to Rainey Street with a friend where they had drinks at two different bars and then took a cab to 6th Street where they met several other friends. Later that evening, the victim found herself back on Rainey Street but had no recollection of how she got there. She was in the company of a male subject who was later identified as the defendant, Jorge Ramon-Amaya. The defendant lured the victim into an alley where he attacked and sexually assaulted her. After a thorough investigation by APD Sex Crimes, the defendant was identified through cell phone records and was later arrested. The defendant's DNA matched samples collected from the victim.

Also this week, a Travis County jury convicted 33-year old Derek Grinstead of Aggravated Sexual Assault. The sexual assault occurred in the morning hours of October 22, 2018, while the victim was opening a tanning salon in the Southpark Meadows shopping center. After she unlocked the business and began setting up for the day, Grinstead, a transient, entered the business and pulled a serrated knife from his pocket. He commanded the victim to enter a room and sexually assaulted her. As soon as the defendant left the business, the victim immediately called 911. Officers with the Austin Police Department were nearby and responded immediately, locating the defendant in the area. A knife matching the victim's description was found in the defendant's pocket. The victim promptly identified Grinstead as the attacker and surveillance footage of him entering the business and leaving confirmed her version of the events. DNA testing on evidence collected during the investigation matched Grinstead's DNA profile.

"This is an offense that is not only criminal, but one that takes away part of someone's humanity," said Assistant District Attorney Lindsay Richards during closing arguments. Co-counsel Geoffrey Puryear further stated, "We admire the courage and strength it took for the victim to relive the trauma and face her attacker and we thank the jury for their attentiveness to the evidence and their just verdict."

Judge Julie Kocurek will sentence Grinstead on November 8, 2019.

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